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# Bulletin

*of the*



**LOUISIANA**  
**LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

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# THE BULLETIN . . . OF THE LOUISIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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## The Louisiana, Mississippi and Southern Arkansas Regional Institute on War and Post-War World Issues

The American Library Association's plans for holding institutes dealing with war and post war problems provided that after the initial national institute held in Chicago, January 30-31 there should be regional meetings in various centers. For this area it was early decided New Orleans would be the best meeting place. The committee in charge of arrangements was made up of the following persons: John Hall Jacobs, Chairman; Miss Vera J. Snook, Coordinator for Arkansas; Miss Essae M. Culver, Coordinator for Louisiana; Miss Pearl Sneed, Coordinator for Mississippi, and eight librarians from the three states.

The institute was held at the Roosevelt Hotel, April 6-7 and was in the form of four panel sessions. The Louisiana Library Association elected to hold its annual meeting, limited in nature, during the time the institute was in session.

Great praise is due the loyal members of the committee who came down from Baton Rouge two or three times to help in perfecting plans and also to a large group of librarians of New Orleans who aided materially in making the meeting a success.

The matter of securing a leader and qualified panel members involved much correspondence and a number of disappointments. As a general policy it was decided that so far as library practice in measures relating to the war effort was concerned, principles, rather than actual experiences, were to be stressed. To insure lively comment from the floor a number of citizens, as well as librarians, specifically qualified or interested in questions at issue were asked to be present and prepared to take part in the discussions. Mr. Harold Brigham, Librarian of the Indiana State Library was chosen as a leader for the program of the institute, but at the last moment he was prevented from coming because of travel priorities.

On the morning for the opening of the institute the managing committee was faced with the problem of having no leader. In this dilemma a most satisfactory solution was found in the drafting of Mr. Jacobs as leader for the first day and Miss Culver for the second day's meetings. All agreed that these two librarians filled the places suddenly thrust upon them with distinction and in the manner of skilled round table discussion leaders.

It was felt by the managing committee that there should be a keynote speech. Miss Ella V. Aldrich gracefully performed this task. Miss Aldrich's address follows:

### *Keynote Address*

I presume we are here because of the dynamic conviction of the part libraries must take in the present crisis. We are here, also, because we want to do something about it—cooperatively. Not merely cooperation among librarians but between librarians and those who use or would use the library.

In a recent message to librarians, Herbert Agar said, "This is a time to re-examine our ideas. If we had thought straight and felt straight from the beginning, we might have avoided our present troubles. . . . This is a time for straight thinking. Our libraries give us a chance to foster such thinking. If we don't profit by the chance, we may lose it. More than half the world has already lost it. So let us be glad for our libraries and for our country which allows us to have libraries and to use them freely. And for the high intelligence with which our libraries are directed."

In Elmer Davis' message to libraries, he called attention to the fact that one of the first acts of the Japanese in the Philippines was to destroy an American library—in perfect line with the policy of the Nazis and Fascists toward libraries, librarians, writers of books and readers of books. He said that

librarians "occupy a position in American life which enables them to see to it that the people of this country have the facts before them." The librarian's twofold professional capacity of having books around them in which facts are presented, and of being continually concerned with directing readers to the materials they want, makes their duty assume a first and pressing importance. We carry a responsibility such as librarians have never carried in our history.

In Chicago we discussed what the war means to different groups of people. It might be well to discuss what the war means to different groups of librarians—not as individuals but as professional groups trying to contribute to the war effort and to post-war plans. It is an easy matter to get lost or buried in the immediate compulsions of routines and techniques and to endow them with more importance, as such, than they merit, especially with depleted staffs; but this regional conference is purposely planned to lift us out of those confusions to the extent of giving our work direction and emphasis in a vast cooperative project, and that we might claim the right to have it said that our libraries are directed with high intelligence.

Walter A. Jessup, President of the Carnegie Corporation, said this: "Success in modern war requires the mobilization of all the nation's intelligence." How else but through the help of libraries, and of librarians who can guide readers, not by telling them what to think but in helping them to decide what to think about? Alfred Noyes said that "small clever minds have been exalted into leaders of sects and schools of thought, chiefly on account of their quickness in seizing isolated fragments of truth—fragments that are not even true until they fall into place as parts of an organic whole."

Unless librarians know what the war issues are and how to help clear the issues for the groups to whom the war brings different problems, they are being untrue to their intellectual responsibilities and are not combating the small clever minds which work with fragments of truth. Librarians all over the

United States are meeting in twenty-one regional conferences to find out what we are fighting for and what our greatest contribution can be in helping to get issues before people and in educating them for meeting such issues. The second reason for their meeting is to stimulate thinking toward what their role will be in post-war plans.

Edgar Mowrer said, "It is the gospel truth that books could have prevented this war. . . . Whether we get a foolish peace or a peace of discernment will result largely from the kind of books people read between now and the day the peace congress gets going." Let it not be said that librarians contributed to anything but a peace of discernment.

\* \* \* \*

At the morning session on April 6 the panel leaders, guided by Mr. Jacobs, were Mr. Clayton Rand, Mississippi editor and writer, Mrs. C. C. Clark, President, Mississippi Congress of Parents and Teachers, Mr. Gung-Hsing Wang, Chinese Consul of New Orleans and Mr. Hale Boggs, former United States Congressman from Louisiana. The topic for discussion was "Why Are We Fighting?" Mr. Rand felt that we of the United States should be fighting for more concrete things and not merely for ideals. By way of suggestion and perhaps to arouse controversy he hinted we might at least indicate some one "little island" which would be a desirable objective. In all other wars, said Mr. Rand, America has had definite slogans and objectives. We should be more materialistic in this war. Mrs. Clark expressed the belief that we are fighting now because we didn't shoulder our part of the responsibility at the end of the first World War. "We are fighting," Mrs. Clark said, "not only for democracy but to keep alive ideals."

Mr. Boggs thought we are fighting a defensive war. We are fighting primarily because we were attacked and we were attacked because of a series of mistakes in our national policy.

The panel members were in general agreement that planning now is necessary and Mr. Rand suggested that there must be united action after the war and that idealism will



of necessity be mixed with materialism in after plans.

Mr. Wang said that the Chinese people are fighting primarily for four things, to drive out the invader, for the independence of the Chinese, for a better way of doing things and for greater economic gains to create a better standard of living.

There followed a lively discussion from the floor. Mr. Bourgeois said we are fighting to suppress outlaws who will not conform to a plan which means the greatest good to the greatest number. Captain Edward Ott, United States Army, said American soldiers are being taught very definitely why we are fighting. We are carrying to our enemies the war which was begun by them. He thought planning for the future at this time was of little use, that the future should take care of itself.

Professor Robert Feild, Director of the Newcomb Art School felt that we should very definitely understand what we mean by "we". Are we fighting to keep the British Empire intact? To what extent are we fighting for India? Do industrial magnates have the point of view on the war that we ourselves have? Mr. Feild stressed the need of study of the actual conditions in countries not too well known by us.

It was generally agreed that we are fighting, as Mr. Boggs expressed it, for world security on a common ground but that it may as well be recognized that wars produce the seeds of new wars and that later conflicts may be expected.

Miss Carmelite Janvier expressed the thought that we are fighting for democracy at home and that better distribution of wealth and better social legislation should motivate our efforts.

A luncheon was given at noon, in the Pan American Room, to honor panel members and a few guests.

At the second panel meeting the evening of April 6, the subject for discussion was "Post-war Planning". Mr. Jacobs again led and had the aid of those panel members who had served in the morning except that to

the list had been added Dean William H. Nes of Christ Church Cathedral.

Mrs. Clark spoke at some length on after war planning. She thought that one of the reasons plans failed after the last war was lack of intelligent public opinion on what was to be done. She felt that this war will close, not all at one time but rather in segments and there is likely to be great confusion because of this fact. Mrs. Clark thought we need an instrumentality to insure peace, that we are now, in our world situation, in a place comparable to that in which Americans found themselves in the time of the Articles of Confederation. Then people abhorred the thought of a national state even as many today regard an international unity.

Dean Nes thought we should approach the problem rationally rather than emotionally. Mr. Boggs while agreeing that we should plan, felt that plans made in too great detail might arouse differences of opinion in this country, thereby hindering, rather than helping the war effort.

Mr. Rand expressed the belief that our young people should not be led to believe in the false notion of a life of ease and comfort without struggle. Rather they should be taught that opportunities are by no means all gone and they should be encouraged in the pioneering American spirit.

Mr. Wang offered the thought that the domestic planning of each nation would affect all nations. What should be done and how he felt he did not know. Dean Nes thought people more articulate now than during the last war and that there should be a policy among nations for continued co-operation. Mrs. Clark raised the question of what can be offered the returning soldier to make him feel we were worth fighting for? Mr. Rand thought that planning in all schemes for building a more perfect society overlooks the question of what will become of the armed forces when the war is over? Will they expect that the world owes them a living? Captain Ott said from the floor that when the war is over there will be 10,000,000 returned soldiers who will have

very definite ideas of what they want and who will vote as a bloc when led by politicians. Dean Nes disagreed with this point of view saying he felt certain that the great educational differences among the soldiers would be one of the reasons why they would not be voted as a bloc. Mr. Boggs thought there was good evidence of intelligence in the army and that in post-war planning it would participate intelligently.

Mrs. Hilda Phelps Hammond, an interested listener, stated that our leaders went to the peace tables at Versailles filled with idealism while our allies went with definite schemes and armed with secret treaties. Our inexperienced statesmen were no match for them and therefore our objectives were lost. She thought we need definite plans upon which all of us can agree when peace comes.

Mr. Rand thought that there should be an agreement for international cooperation to maintain freedom of the air when the war is over.

On the morning of April 7, the third panel session was held, Miss Essae M. Culver presiding as discussion leader. The panel members were Miss Pearl Sneed, Secretary of the Mississippi Library Commission, Mr. Marvin A. Miller, Librarian of the University of Arkansas, Miss Sue Hefley, Supervisor of School Libraries, Louisiana Department of Education, and Mrs. Charles H. Morton, Assistant Director, Louisiana State University Library School. The subject for the morning was "Libraries in the War".

There was discussion on various questions, including: On what issues of the present crisis should the public and librarians be better informed? What place has the library in the war effort? Do librarians read enough? Can our librarians know and do all the things they should know and do in this crisis with present shortages of staff? What does the present situation demand of librarians for which their training is inadequate? Should children's reading be directed to books about the war and, if so, what dangers are there in this practice?

Miss Hefley said that this is a war not

only of men and materials but ideas. Once ideas are admitted as a factor, books must also be admitted and libraries as a factor follow as a matter of course. Miss Hefley raised the question of whether or not popular demand for library service increases only in proportion to advanced standards of living and the amount of leisure time which the individual reader has at his disposal? She said such an impression might be gathered from the statement made in September 1942 in the National Resources Planning Board report on Post-war Planning. She said current reports from libraries do not support this impression, that school libraries report an increased library usage in spite of the fact that many students no longer have even one study period during the day. Public libraries report a shift from leisure-time reading to reading for aid in solution of an immediate job problem or for information on current happenings and trends. University libraries report an upward swing in the use of technical materials with so-called leisure reading on the decrease. The conclusion is that the libraries are being called upon to meet a public need which is part of the wartime pattern.

Miss Sneed said that her experience had shown that the libraries' part in the present crisis is to make an effort to keep citizens informed on the home front, the industrial front and also to be informed on the fighting conditions as well as the countries with which we are at war. On the home front this means participation with groups. This meant to her that the head librarian as well as the staff should know OCD and OPA leaders, PTA groups, AAUW, etc. As librarians we should be familiar with the school program, know something of the change in the curriculum to meet the present war need, and assist by providing bibliographies and supplementing the school library from the larger public library.

Mrs. Morton said that the librarian must promote reading; his responsibility is not only to select the needed books but to promote their use. As an active agent in the war effort, he must consider it his job to

stimulate thinking, in every way possible, on the war and the post war world.

She asked, is there something wrong with our book selection methods, that useful books stay on the shelves, and that the government has to supply its soldiers with handbooks telling them of the lands and the peoples they will come to know in overseas assignments? Can the library do for the general public with its books, what the Army hopes to do for the soldiers with these manuals?

Mr. Miller, speaking for university libraries, mentioned that with the accelerated programs students had less time to read and that the university libraries were being affected by reduced staffs, demands for technical materials, and pressure of Army and Navy schools on their campuses.

The question was brought up as to how the library schools fail or succeed in preparing librarians to meet the new demands that the war is making of libraries. Miss Aldrich stressed the importance of public relations, and the need for emphasis in Library School curriculum on it.

How to meet the shortage of librarians as a result of the war was mentioned but not discussed at length. Recruiting for librarianship was recognized as necessary, and the point was made that it was up to us to make the profession more attractive if we are to secure the best people and a sufficient number of them.

After this morning session a Trustees' luncheon was given in the Roosevelt Hotel presided over by Mrs. George Lester of Bains, La., a member of the Louisiana Library Commission. The luncheon was well attended and a stimulating discussion was reported by those who attended.

At the fourth and final panel session on the afternoon of April 7, Miss Culver again led the panel members who had served at the morning meeting. The subject for discussion was "Libraries of the Future".

Miss Hefley raised the question of whether or not planning for the post-war world on the part of the individual citizen is of any avail? She thought that the opinions of in-

dividuals would be reflected in small group action which in turn affects larger groups and finally legislative bodies.

Mrs. Morton expressed the thought that post-war planning for libraries must concern itself with preparation now for the increased demands that will follow the demobilization of the armed forces. After the last war we were not ready to meet these demands. We should have been in the vanguard of the Adult Education Movement but were not.

Miss Sneed said that the library should make an effort to find out the interests in post-war planning, and provide up-to-date material as well as background material for those who wish to make a study of the past and post-war planning. I think that in peace as well as in war each member of the staff should be well informed on the community, its various activities, and also to keep abreast of the thinking by in service reading.

Miss Hefley felt that public conception of the function of libraries is changing, the position in our national life is being strengthened; librarians and library groups must plan specifically to be able to assume their rightful place in the post-war world. Plans cannot be too specific; the plan which is ready for execution at the end of the war will be the plan which will receive first attention. Plans must cover service, housing, and personnel.

Mr. Jacobs said he felt we may of necessity find ourselves concerned with a horizontal rather than a vertical division of library services after the war.

The negro in the South came up for discussion. What library services could be given him? Could he be invited to sit in on public forums such as this? Capt. Ott commented that he had observed negro soldiers are avid readers. Sister Redempta, Librarian of Xavier University, thought that peoples' universities are needed and that good reading for negroes should be provided, otherwise they will get bad literature from others. Very often, she thought, unsuitable literature is given to them. Judge Voelker, Chairman of the Louisiana Library Commission spoke at some

length on the state's new home for delinquent negro children in which will be stressed the three "R's" and vocational training.

The afternoon's proceedings and the Institute was brought to a close with the adoption of the following resolutions:

**THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
PLACES ITSELF ON RECORD IN FAVOR OF:**

1. Personal reading and staff study in order that this broader knowledge may be translated into community study and activity;
2. The assumption by librarians of a positive leadership in the selection of books and in community activity;
3. A restudy of all community groups and forces in order that library service on war or post-war problems may be more universal, more prompt and more effective;
4. Cooperation between all thinking groups of a community in asserting the importance of reading in the winning of an early, an intelligent and a permanent peace. Specifically, it is urged that for public libraries there should be encouragement of public forums or other discussion groups and vocational guidance clinics. A recognition of the urgent need of the maintenance of and increase in the support to library service;
5. Placing the weight of library influence behind national and governmental recognition of the essential importance of reading matter in a national crisis in order that the most adequate allowance possible of paper and manpower be available for the production of books as weapons of war and for peace.
6. A more general recognition of the importance of the public library as an integral part of our educational system and the large place it has in helping to win the war and the peace.

BETHANY SWEARINGEN,  
CONSTANCE MITCHELL,  
ROBERT J. USHER,  
*Chairman*

Mr. George King Logan, Acting Librarian of the New Orleans Public Library, has prepared the following summary of comments upon the Regional Institute by those who attended:

Mr. John Hall Jacobs, Chairman of the recent A. L. A. Regional Institute in New Orleans, has been granted a leave of absence from the New Orleans Public Library to accept a commission in the United States Naval Reserve. Before leaving, he sent post cards to a representative number of librarians who had attended the Institute asking for their critical evaluation of the meetings. The response to his request has been gratifying, and many people wrote several pages of constructive ideas, which should help in planning other meetings of this type. All but one letter expressed the sentiment that the Institute had been an enjoyable and valuable experience, and "stimulative," "provocative," and "inspirational" are among the descriptive adjectives most used.

About the Institute as a whole, most of the comments have been about as follows:

"I am sure that anyone who did not take advantage of attending these conferences missed a great deal."

"I am honest in saying that I have attended no meeting in recent years that was as stimulating as the first two panels. To me as a librarian and as a citizen, the first day's meeting was of immeasurable value."

"I felt that this conference was the finest I had ever attended. To say that it was inspirational is to use an overworked phrase and one that is often used haphazardly. In this case, however, I feel that the conference was truly and sincerely inspirational and accomplished what all our education is attempting—namely, it made one think."

"The Institute on war and peace in New Orleans was one of the most interesting and inspiring experiences of my life."

Mr. Jacobs had suggested that he would be interested in reactions on certain specific points. For example, what was the value of the institute to librarians as professional people and as citizens? Most of the replies seemed to indicate that the Institute's value



must be considered in both these respects, and one writer says: "It is my impression that the chief value of the Institute was in the stimulation that it gave to the individual's thinking; there cannot but be a carry-over into his library activities, as even in the matter of routines he would be forced to ask himself whether they were justified in times such as these, in the light of activities and topics discussed in connection with the library and the war." Another writes: "From the standpoint of a librarian, I was made to fully realize that our important work in the community was as essential as defense plants and armed forces." A third writes: "The value to librarians of the regional institute is twofold: First, it brings together the sincere opinions of representative people either for acceptance or discussion; and second, we are given a cross-section on the trend of thought on post-war problems, thus helping to anticipate the demands for the reading public."

There was a general feeling that from meetings of this type librarians could learn what the average citizen thinks of his library and expects from it. Several commented on the fact that it was a revelation to see what a narrow concept some laymen have of what goes on within the walls of our institutions, and they suggested that we must redouble our efforts to make our influence felt in community life and activities.

The one unfavorable letter of criticism said "the conference was too general and lacked concrete and practical suggestions. I think that criticism could be applied to the A. L. A. conference also". Some of the letters expressed a feeling of disappointment that more concrete and definite suggestions about library practices could not have been brought forth, although there was also a decided feeling that the Institute should not be used as an "experience meeting". One writes: "While the discussion certainly stimulated thought, we did not arrive at any definite conclusions to objectives or techniques. Perhaps such conclusions are unattainable at such meetings, but I would have liked to have gotten some specific suggestions

as to what I should do in my library to aid the war and post-war efforts". One librarian suggests that in planning future institutes it might be a good idea to divide up the second day's meetings into groups having topics in common, such as school librarians, public librarians, etc. In this way all institute members would have an opportunity of discussing the broad social implications of the war and post-war period on the first day, while on the second day they would concentrate on the particular place their own library might take.

The delegates were requested to express their reaction to the plan of including laymen in the Institute meetings, inviting them to speak on the panel and from the floor. This seems to have met with approval, the unanimous opinion being that laymen were essential at meetings of this type. Some writers thought that those outside the profession should have been encouraged to take an even greater part than they did. The following are typical expressions of opinion on this point. "It seems to me that the more we bring the layman into our meetings the more libraries—and librarians—will profit." "I would suggest that . . . we not have panels made up entirely of librarians." "An interesting panel might be composed of librarians and lay people, especially with regard to what might be done to further the war effort, since the points of view would not be similar but would supplement each other. The danger in having a panel of librarians only is that of monotony and too little variation to hold the interest of the audience." "It is my concept that librarians are too prone to getting involved in technicalities, whereas this discussion has more to do with the broader concept of library development. I feel that lay people would prove of far more value because of this reason than a panel of librarians."

Several interesting comments were received on the subject of the panel participants. Most delegates seem to think that "The lay panel represented an excellent cross-section of thought" although several said that "the panel members could be in-

creased to include a greater variety of interest to the betterment of the discussion." Several recognized the need for controversial issues being brought forth and agreed that those speakers who took a decided stand on issues made a splendid contribution, even when the majority of the audience was not in agreement with them. One librarian writes: "If the youth of our country will be the leaders of the post-war world, it seems only fair that a representative—a good straight-forward thinker—of their group should be asked to participate as a speaker on the panel. As I recall, the participants represented three different states, several different nations, and several different professions, but not the youth of our country."

The last minute difficulty experienced by the committee in finding discussion leaders does not seem to have proved an insurmountable obstacle. The delegates who mentioned the discussion leaders agreed that librarians in this capacity make a real contribution. One writes, "As a result of our experience, I recommend employment of a librarian as discussion leader even for the panels in which librarians are not under direct examination. In my opinion, lay discussion leaders could not have served so well as did our librarian leaders."

In discussing the techniques employed by the discussion leaders in handling the meetings, these comments were received: "The panel and floor discussions were eminently democratic . . . and seemed well designed to include everyone present as an active participant. The flow of ideas in such discussions when well led—as these were—is more impelling than other methods. In other words the individual as a participant is put on his mettle and whether he speaks or not feels himself a real part of the group." There was some thought that members of the panel should be required to adhere to a maximum time limit and that some way might be devised for keeping the same people from talking too frequently from the floor. As one person writes: "I was disappointed that many of the folks who usually have so much to say and say it so well were not drawn into

the discussion. Those of us with limited experience prefer to let others with wider experience say the things we think, just as long as they get said. I wish there could be an agreement that an individual speaker could speak from the floor only twice unless challenged by another speaker."

There were several other constructive criticisms mentioned in the letters. One was that a quieter place (perhaps outside the business district) should be chosen for meetings, another that the acoustics of the meeting place should be carefully checked, and many suggested that all speakers should be requested to speak loudly enough to be heard throughout the room. Several letters mentioned the need for more publicity, both in advance of the Institute and throughout the sessions and it was pointed out that one of the most valuable features of a meeting of this kind is the publicity value which it gives to the library profession. One letter suggested criticism not of the Institute, but rather of librarians: "We need to do a great deal more realistic thinking and much more reading than we do . . . We as librarians should be better informed to do some real constructive work." Another writes: "I would have liked further expression to clarify some points, particularly relating to the immediate end of the war and return of the armed forces: the effect on the economic situation and the assimilation of the armed forces into civilian life. This is the point where libraries should enter the post-war plans and for which they should now be making constructive plans."

If the success of a meeting of this type can in any measure be gauged by the response to the question: "Would you come again?", then the committee in charge of the Regional Institute should feel rewarded. A typical closing sentence is "Thanks for a very enjoyable meeting. I'd like to come to another." A high school principal writes: "I hope that I shall have the pleasure of attending another library conference in the near future." A librarian sums up her impressions by saying "The institute was definitely worthwhile, and I would like to see

others held in various parts of the state if that is possible."

Statistics of the Institute were prepared by Mr. John Hall Jacobs, Leader, and are as follows:

Louisiana .....	169
Mississippi .....	11
Arkansas .....	9
Illinois .....	5
New York .....	1
	195

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Louisiana Library Association held its 18th annual meeting at the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans on April 6, 1943, Miss Sallie Farrell, President, presiding. The following committees made reports:

1. Membership, Nancy Sexton, Chairman. A total of 450 letters were sent, resulting in 275 memberships, of which 241 are individual and 34 institutional.

2. Adult education, Debora Abramson, Chairman. Letters have been sent to individuals in 21 parishes, asking about adult education facilities in each parish. Material from 19 parishes has been assembled, and the other 6 have given assurance that it will be forthcoming.

3. Salary, staff, and tenure, Margaret Herdman, Chairman. 464 questionnaires have been sent to 40 college and public and 424 school libraries.

4. Nominations, Robert Usher, Chairman. The following names were submitted to serve as officers for the year 1943-44:

President—Miss Sallie Farrell

1st Vice-president—Miss Loma Knight

2nd Vice-president—Miss Patricia Motte

Secretary—Miss Dorothy Beckemeyer

Treasurer—Miss S. Metella Williams.

5. Auditing, Bessie Mitchell, Chairman. In the absence of Miss Mitchell, the report was given by Miss Irma Rayne. After check-

ing the Treasurer's accounts, the committee reports her books satisfactory.

6. Cooperation with Library Section of L. T. A., Frances Flanders, Chairman. In the absence of Miss Flanders, this report was given by Miss Norris McClellan. The committee reports various activities to stimulate cooperation between the L. L. A. and the L. T. A., and to help the school librarians interpret their dual professional role to their principals and their equal obligation to attend both meetings.

7. Program, Miss Elizabeth Williams, Chairman. In the absence of Miss Williams, this report was given by Mr. John H. Jacobs. Since the Executive Council decided to merge the annual meeting of the L. L. A. with the Regional Institute on War and Post-War Issues, the Program Committee did not function, except in planning the Book Dinner to follow the Institute.

8. State planning, Miss Essae M. Culver, Chairman. This committee had no report to make.

9. State aid, Bess Vaughan, Chairman. There is to be a statewide campaign to organize support for state aid. This committee is to function through next year, which is a legislative year.

10. Printing and distribution of the constitution, Ella V. Aldrich, Chairman. 500 copies of the constitution and by-laws were printed. Many of these were distributed at the meeting, the others are to be sent to each member by the treasurer.

11. Enlargement of handbook on committee duties, Mildred Hogan, Chairman. In order for this committee to make a satisfactory report, it should make a complete restudy of committee duties. Miss Aldrich moved that this committee be "frozen." This was seconded and passed.

The Treasurer made her report after committee reports. She reported that she had received, during 1942-43, a total of \$1441.50 and paid out \$230.35, having a balance of \$1211.15.

Mr. Robert Usher made a report on the L. L. A. Bulletin, showing a deficit of \$3.14. Since the revenues from advertising are

steadily decreasing, the subsidy granted by the Association should be increased from \$125.00 to \$150.00 and an additional \$30.00 should be raised by charging the larger libraries in the state a small subscription fee. This would total \$180.00, leaving an equal amount to be raised from advertising. Final action was left to the Executive Council of L. L. A.

Miss Farrell reported on the action taken by the Executive Board in February when it was decided to appoint a committee to push through the next legislature a bill organizing the distribution of state publications.

When Miss Farrell called for new business, Mrs. Morton moved that the Association take \$375.00, or any suitable amount, and buy a war bond. This was seconded and carried. Miss Aldrich asked whether the sections had been allotted funds this year. Miss Farrell replied that this had not been done due to an oversight in having space for the members to indicate their section choice. This oversight would be corrected and the allocations made in the future. Miss Hefley asked if the L. L. A. could pay for the mimeographing and assembling of a list of material on librarianship in Louisiana, prepared by the Baton Rouge Library Club. The list is intended for high school pupils, and will be distributed by the State Department of Education. It was decided that this is a local project and should be financed by the local club.

When the question of an annual revision of the Louisiana Library Directory was brought up, there was some discussion as to the advisability of devoting a special issue of the Bulletin to this. Some members thought this would not only be too expensive, but that a central card file that could be easily and immediately revised would be more satisfactory. After much discussion it was moved by Miss Elmira Montgomery that a committee be named to make an accurate card file of librarians and placed in an accessible location, to be determined by the executive board. This was seconded and carried 44 to 15. Miss Culver then moved that another committee be appointed to make an

estimate of the cost of mimeographing this file and present it to the executive board. This list is to be placed in central locations throughout the state with extra copies for circulation. This was seconded and carried.

Miss Farrell asked that the chairman of each section turn their minutes over to the secretary of the L. L. A.

Mr. Postell moved that resolutions be sent to Mrs. Moore expressing our regrets because of her resignation from the presidency of L. L. A. and of the ill-health which necessitated it. Mrs. Morton moved that a letter of condolence be sent to the family of George Johnson, reported missing in action in the South Pacific, and to the family of Miss May Barrow, many years president of the East Baton Rouge Library Club. These were all seconded and passed and the meeting adjourned.

MARJORIE C. LEIGH,  
*Secretary*

## L. L. A. DINNER

Asserting that the peace to follow this war shall be one to end partiality, persecution and poverty and a peace that shall never end, Rabbi Louis Binstock, formerly of New Orleans and now of Chicago, addressed members of the Louisiana Library Association Wednesday, April 17 at a dinner at The Roosevelt which concluded the association's regional institute on peace and war. His topic was "The Best Things in the Worst Times."

"The caste system that measures a man's value by his birth instead of his wisdom, charity, and character must end with the war," he said. "These are some of the best things that must come from the darkest times."

"We must remove persecution not only of the Jews, but the Chinese, Indians, Africans, and Malaysians, for if one man is allowed to label another as inferior it lays the foundation for another war."

In dealing with the end of poverty, he said, "Modern civilization can stand war with all its ravages better than it can tolerate pov-



erty with its destruction of personality and pride. If we can spend billions on war, why can't we spend something in times of peace to end poverty and thus help prevent wars?

"People of the United Nations must be willing to sacrifice now for the ensuing

peace—a peace that shall never end," he said. "We didn't achieve that peace in 1919 because we were so confused and it was pressed upon us so suddenly that we just didn't understand, but God granting, this time we shall not fail to win the peace."



## A PROPOSED NEW FEATURE FOR THE BULLETIN

College and reference librarians of the L. L. A., who attended the section meeting held April 6, 1943, during the Regional Library Institute, expressed a wish to sponsor a new feature in the Bulletin.

Call it "Question Box", "Queries", or what you will, the column would aspire to be a medium for the discussion and solution of professional problems.

Questions would be submitted to the Editor of the Bulletin, or, if warranted, a special associate editorship could be created for managing this feature.

A few suggestions have already been made regarding the handling of the questions after submittal. They might be published as received and without explanation.

Or, they might be distributed, at the discretion of the Editor, among individual librarians, who, he feels, may be qualified to express an opinion on the query. In this instance, the question, and at least one comment, would appear in the same issue of the Bulletin.

The possibility that no one would reply to the question is a factor to be considered in the case of the first suggestion. However,

the simultaneous appearance of the question and comment might discourage further discussion on the subject by the membership at large.

Which plan do you favor?

The following are proposed as topics which should elicit replies or observations from some of our Louisiana librarians.

How is the war affecting the college book budget?

The college accelerated program restricts the student's time for outside reading. Has your library experienced a drop in circulation of "Browsing room" literature?

If there is an army camp in your section, do you consider it your responsibility to provide service to its personnel? How much service?

Do you approve or disapprove the Project? Will you personally feel responsible to reply to questions relating to your experience?

An expression from each member of the L. L. A. is solicited! Send the Editor your comments, suggestions, and questions by letter or post card today!



## SCHOOL LIBRARY SECTION

The regular meeting of the School Library Section of the L. L. A. was held in Room I, Roosevelt Hotel at 4 p. m., Tuesday, April 6, 1943, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order by the acting Chairman, Miss Georgette Richard, in the absence of Mrs. Mary Lee Phillips, Chairman.

Because of the stress of time, there was no regular program, but the following business was transacted:

The minutes of the 1943 meeting were read and approved.

In the absence of Mrs. Seale, Chairman, Miss Sue Hefley gave a report of the Committee on a Bibliography of Books for Re-

tarded Readers. She suggested that it be a continuing project for next year. The motion was made by Miss Montgomery that we accept the report and the same committee continue for another year's study. This was seconded and carried.

The report of the Committee on a Constitution was given by Miss Thesta Ann Walker. Discussion was opened by Miss Lily Mouton as to the advisability of allowing the Chairman to designate someone in her section to work with her as Secretary-Treasurer, in order to save time and correspondence. This was put to vote and did not

carry. It was moved and seconded that the Constitution be adopted as read. The motion carried.

The Nominating Committee submitted the following candidates who were elected without opposition:

Miss Georgette Richard, Chairman;  
Mrs. Evelyn Cormier, Vice-Chairman;  
Miss Lily Mouton, Secretary-Treasurer.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
OLIVE M. GEHRING



## LOUISIANA LIBRARY COMMISSION

The ninth biennial report of the Louisiana Library commission has been distributed over the state and shows a healthy increase in the use of the commission resources by citizens of the state. The report, prepared by Miss Essae M. Culver, executive secretary of the commission, shows a circulation increase of 37 per cent over any previous biennium with a total circulation of 1,384,204 volumes. It covers the calendar years of 1940 and 1941 and the first six months of 1942.

The commission shipped out 22,068 packages of books to every section of the state during the period, and 78,024 special requests for information were filled. The war effort was responsible for many of the commission's activities during the period and the library's resources were taxed to care for the reading needs of soldiers, stationed in Louisiana camps and of defense workers brought here on government projects.

The Louisiana Library commission held its first North Louisiana meeting late in April, all five members assembling in Shreveport where they received copies of the biennial report, heard an outline of commission activities by Miss Essae M. Culver, executive secretary, voted to conduct an adult education project in Vermilion parish, and con-

ducted other business. Details of the project are now being worked out.

Mayor Sam Caldwell entertained the commission at luncheon and conferring with the group were members of the Board of control of Caddo and Bossier parishes and of the Citizens' Library Movement in Bossier. Later commission members motored to Minden to view the Webster parish library and to attend a reception there.

Members of the Louisiana Library commission staff are now under civil service. Examinations were given several months ago and all staffers passed with flying colors. This is the first group of librarians in the state to have civil service ratings.

The reference service of the Louisiana Library commission for negroes of the state was opened at Southern university on May 15 with Carrie Robinson in charge. Headquarters are in a large room in a building on the Scotlandville campus. Mrs. Robinson is a graduate of the library school of Hampton institute and has taken graduate courses at Columbia university. She was formerly a librarian at Grambling Institute for Negroes near Ruston and during the past year has been librarian at Southern's model school.

Libraries were given a boost by Governor Sam Jones in his recent address before the Louisiana Policy Jury association in convention in Lafayette. The governor in his program for state betterment included under education the following recommendations: "That the state library system be extended to all the 64 parishes and not confined to the 15 or 20 now taking advantage thereof.

Louisiana has made some progress in library development as witness the latest edition of "The Equal Chance," a new edition of which is just off the press. Circulation per capita has risen slightly as has also the number of volumes per capita. However, Louisiana is still next to the lowest state but has reduced to 44 per cent the number of citizens without library service.

Staff changes are reported everywhere and the Louisiana Library commission is no exception. Miss Helen Adams, former secretary of the Louisiana State university library school, has joined the staff as cataloger, replacing Miss Frances Flory, who accepted a position in Washington, D. C., with the F. B. I. Mrs. Shirley Knowles Stephenson, who has recently served as state supervisor of the Mississippi WPA statewide library extension project, has taken up her duties in the parish and regional department of the commission. Miss Louise Nabors, formerly of the commission staff, has accepted the post

of librarian at the Harding field air base in Baton Rouge.

Wartime activities continue to engage the attention of parish libraries in Louisiana. Two new librarians have assumed their duties, Miss Lelia Branch, formerly of Bossier parish, having taken over direction of the Concordia parish library and Miss Margaret Cudd, formerly of Monroe, having assumed a similar position at the Richland parish library. Both are graduates of the L. S. U. library school.

The work of the Terrebonne library has increased with the arrival of personnel stationed at the new Naval Air Station in Houma and representatives of the armed services are calling constantly on the library. Pointe Coupee has cut its bookmobile trips to one each two weeks and on a recent trip made in a driving rain 129 books were circulated from the bookmobile. Caddo reported a great demand for books on Thomas Jefferson when the library to meet the call sought aid of the Louisiana Library commission. Vermilion parish library received its first payment from the severance taxes, the budget being supplemented by nearly \$1,000 from this source. Concordia, Sabine and Morehouse parish libraries also shared in severance tax receipts.

DeSoto parish library reported with regret the death of a board member, Mr. O. E. Price of Logansport.

## LOUISIANA IN PRINT

Recent references on Louisiana or by Louisiana authors, including books of importance locally printed, selected and annotated by Marguerite D. Renshaw, Reference Librarian, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, New Orleans.

Adams, James Truslow—Atlas of American History. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1943. 360 p.

(Several maps of Louisiana. Dr. Walter Pritchard, head of the Dept. of His-

tory, Louisiana State University, is a member of the Advisory Council.)

Bromme, Traugott—Mississippi. A geographic—statistic—topographic sketch for immigrants and friends of geography and ethnology. Trans. by Charles F. Heartman. Hattiesburg, Miss., The Book Farm, 1942. 20 p. (Heartman Historical Ser. No. 64.)

Edmunds, Murrell—Not many—but free [14 p.] [New Orleans c. 1943.] (Poetry.)

Kernan, William F.—We can win this war. 176 p. N. Y., Little Brown, 1943.

Kirk, Richard—Short measures. 92 p. New Orleans, Tulane University, 1943.

Louisiana State University—University bulletin v. 35, No. 1. Graduate school abstracts of theses for the 1941-42 session. University, L. S. U. [1943].

McMurtrie, Douglas C.—Louisiana imprints 1768-1810. A supplement to the Bibliography, "Early Printing in New Orleans. 65 p. Hattiesburg, Miss., The Book Farm, 1942. (Heartman Historical Ser. No. 62.)

Miller, H. T.—Wild Lilac. 241 p. New York, Appleton-Century, 1943. (Fiction.)

New Orleans Public Library—Annual Report 1942. 27 p. [New Orleans, 1943.]

Osborn, George C.—John Sharp Williams. La. State University Press, 1943.

Rodriguez Casado, Vincente—Primeros anos de dominacion espanola en la Luisiana. (Instituto Gonzalo Fernandez de Oviedo. Consejo superior de investigaciones cientificas), Madrid, 1942.

Shaw, Arthur Marvin—William Preston Johnston. 299 p. Baton Rouge, L. S. U. Press, 1943.

Stafford, G. M. G.—General Leroy Augustus Stafford, His Forebears and Descendants. A genealogy. New Orleans, Pelican Publishing Co., 1943.

Stout, L. H.—Reminiscences of General Braxton Bragg. 23 p. Hattiesburg, The Book Farm, 1942. (Heartman Historical Ser. No. 63.)

Tulane University of Louisiana—Bulletin Series v. 44, No. 1. Graduate School. Abstracts of theses, 1942. (Abstracts of theses for the 1941-42 session and for the summer session of 1942). 64 p. [New Orleans] 1943.

U. S. Dept. of Agriculture—Forest Service. Southern Forest Experiment Station, New Orleans. 22nd annual report, 1942. (Mimographed.)

Warren, Harris G.—The Sword was their passport. 286 p. La. State University Press, 1943.

## ATTENTION SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

Chairman of the School Libraries Section of Louisiana Teachers Association: Mildred Mobley, librarian, Byrd High School, Shreveport.

Chairman of the School Libraries Section of Louisiana Teachers Association: Georgette Richard, librarian, Donaldsonville High School, Donaldsonville.

Chairman of the Library Committee of Louisiana Teachers Association: Laura Leche, librarian, Marrero High School, Marrero.

Chairman of the School Libraries Section of Louisiana Colored Teachers Association: Glendora Archie, librarian, Bienville Parish Training School, Bienville.



## LATE NEWS

Miss Laura Boddie Jones, formerly connected with the Tulane University Library as well as the Louisiana State Normal College Library of Natchitoches, and more recently librarian of Camp McCain Library was married on May 9 to Lieut. Earle C. Bowers.

Miss Viola Andersen, Reference Librarian of the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library was married on June 4 to Ralph F. Perotti of New York City. For the present Private and Mrs. Perotti are at home in New Orleans.

Lieutenant John Hall Jacobs, USNR, in May left his position as librarian of the New Orleans Public Library for training in New York City. He has now been stationed at Ruston, La., with the Navy Training Program at Louisiana Polytechnic Institute.

Miss Rhoda Barlett, Assistant in the Circulation Department of the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library leaves soon for New York City for training as a WAVE.

Sergeant Ralph McComb, Assistant Librarian of the Howard-Tilton Memorial Li-



brary, on leave with the armed forces, is now in North Africa.

The third annual meeting of The Friends of The Howard-Tilton Memorial Library was held in the library's Browsing Room the evening of May 25th. The speaker for the occasion was Dean Frederick Hard of Newcomb College, whose address was on the life and work of William Alexander Percy of Mississippi, who was one of Dean Hard's intimate friends. Officers elected at the meeting were—President, Dr. H. W. E. Walther, 1st Vice-President, Miss Sarah Henderson; 2nd Vice-President, Mr. James K. Feibleman; Treasurer, Mr. Fred. W. Ellsworth, and Secretary, Robert J. Usher. A list of gifts received during the year was announced. The organization's membership list is increasing most satisfactorily.

On July first there will be begun at Tulane University, as at other educational centers in the state, a naval training program. Some 1200 enrollees are expected at Tulane. The library building is to be given over to them as a study hall. It is expected that students will occupy numbered seats on the second and third floors of the building. There is a hope that it will be possible to reserve certain space in the building for civilian use and that it will not be necessary to set up elsewhere on the campus one or more special libraries and reading rooms.

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